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(54) Wire terminal attaching structure of a driven rotary body

(57) A cover 37 rotatably supports and surrounds a driven rotary body 13. An engaging device formed in the rotary body and engageable with a terminal portion 45 of a wire 15 has a guide groove 51 connected to a circumferential groove 41 formed in the rotary body and receiving the wire 15, and an insertion port 53 communicated with the guide groove 51 and receiving the terminal portion 45. The cover 37 has a cut-out portion 55 for exposing the guide groove 51 and the insertion port 53. The cover 37 has a base plate 25 rotatably supporting the rotary body. The wire 15 is connected to an auxiliary member 5, for raising and lowering a sliding window of a vehicle, by movement of the wire. The insertion port 53 may be disposed along the axial direction of the rotary body 13.

FIG. 2

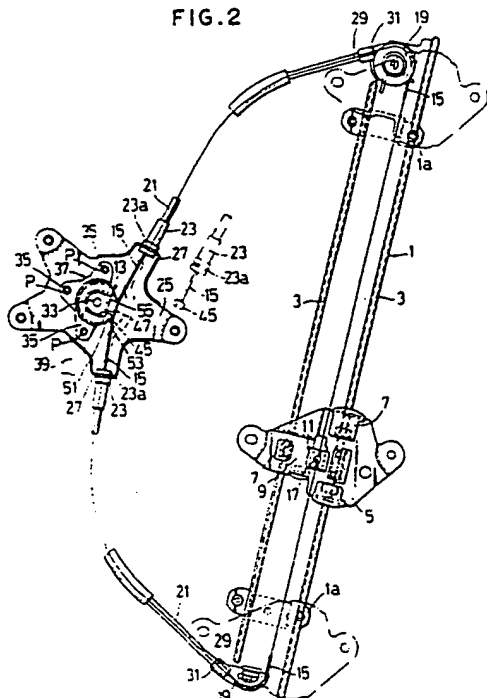
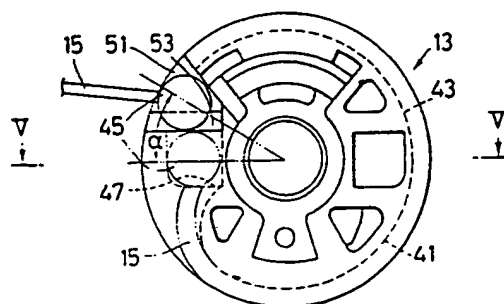


FIG. 4



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FIG. 1

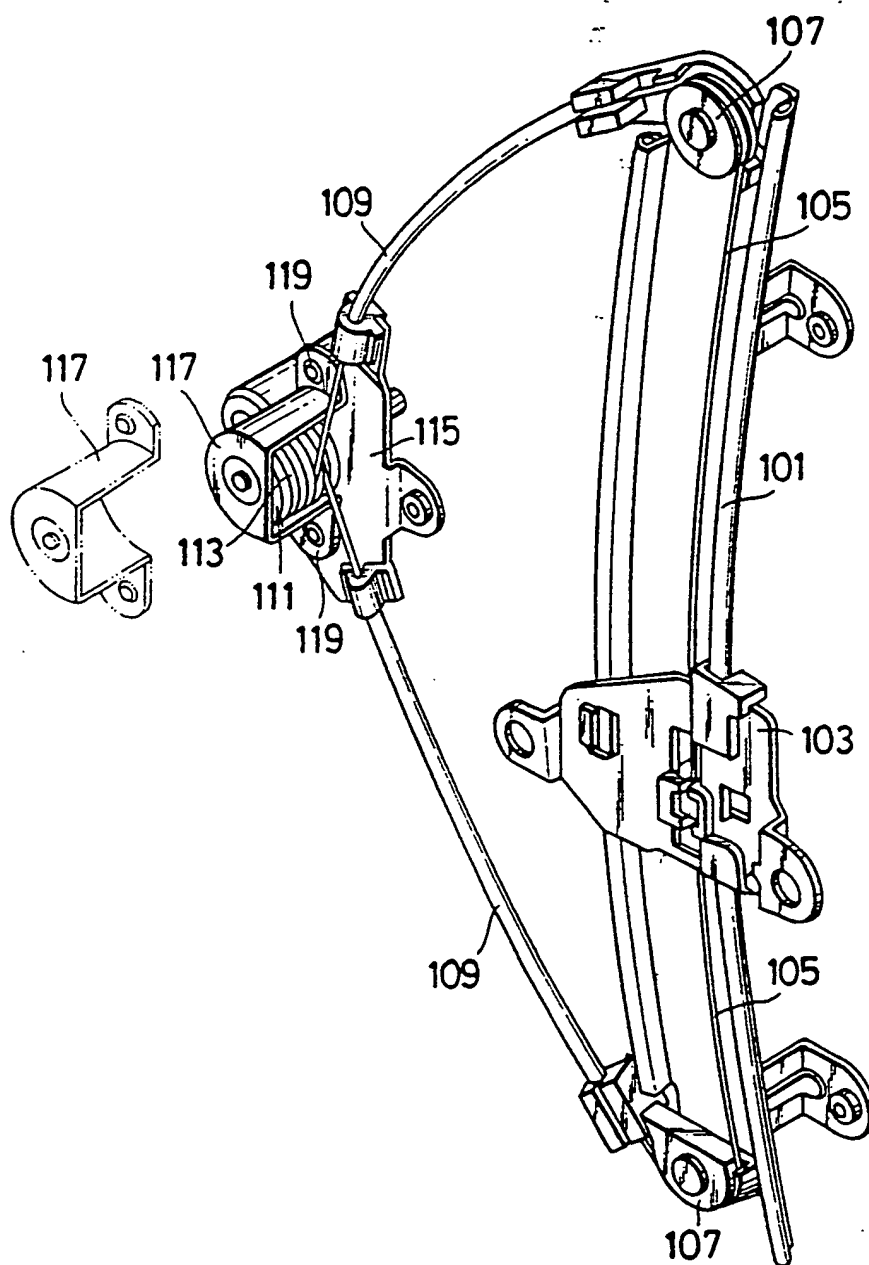


FIG. 2

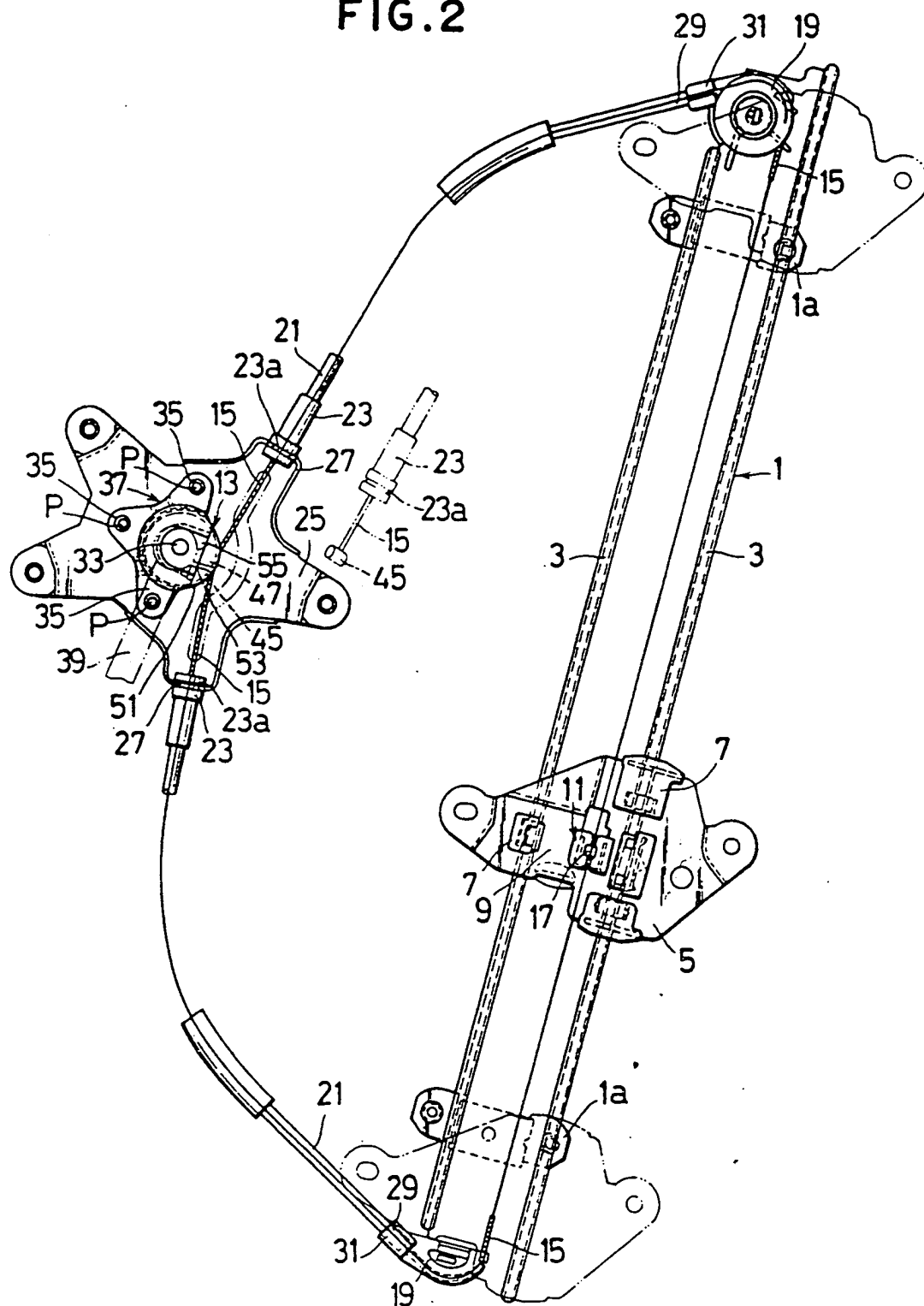


FIG. 3

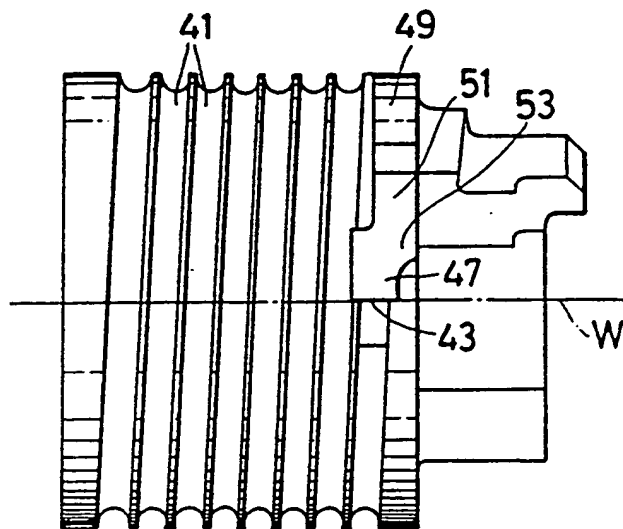


FIG. 4

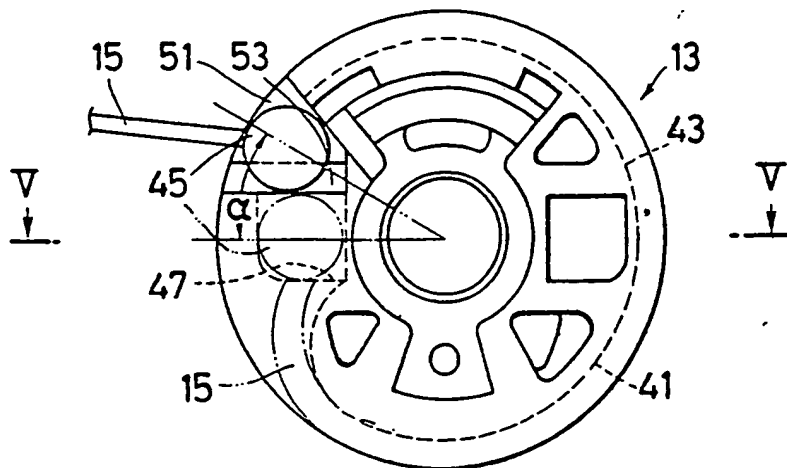


FIG. 5

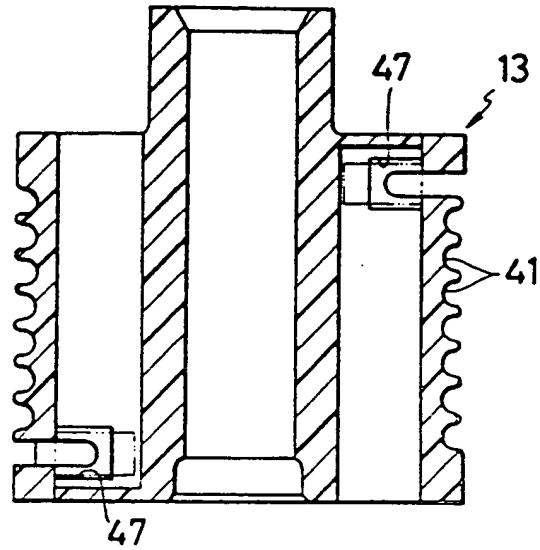


FIG. 6

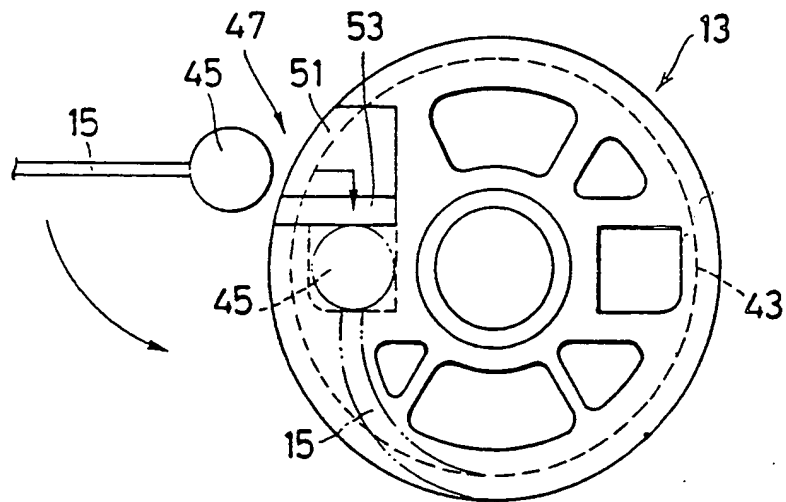


FIG. 7

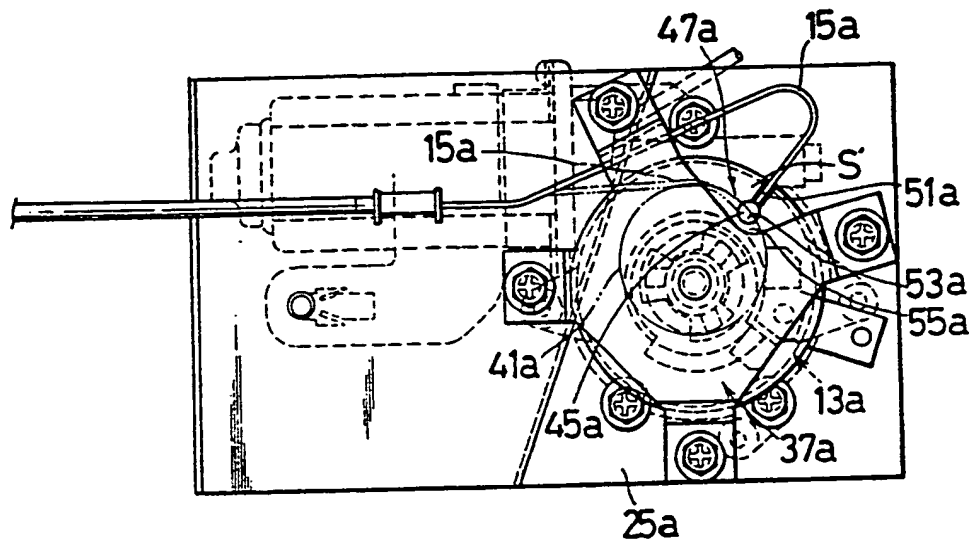
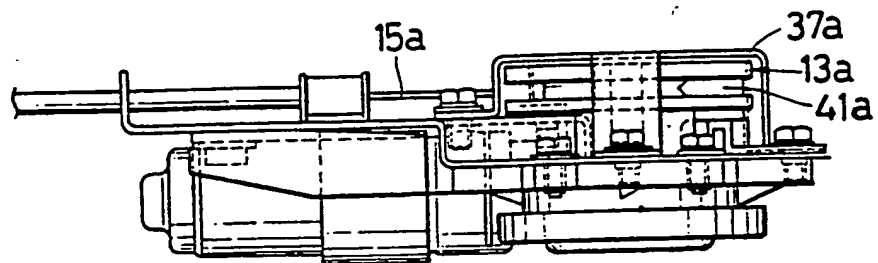


FIG. 8



WIRE TERMINAL ATTACHING STRUCTURE OF A
DRIVEN ROTARY BODY

The present invention relates to a winding device with a rotary body, such as a wire drum, and to a wire terminal attaching structure for attaching a flexible elongate element or wire to such a body.

In a conventional wire terminal attaching structure, as shown in Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings, a wire 105 for operating an auxiliary part such as a window regulator, etc., is connected to a carrier plate 103 vertically and movably attached to a guide rail 101. The wire 105 is disposed along the guide rail 101 and extends through guide tubes 109 via upper and lower wire guide portions 107, and is wound around circumferential grooves 113 on a drum 111. When one end portion of the wire 105 is wound by the normal or reverse rotation of the drum 111, the other end portion of the wire 105 is unwound.

The wire 105 is attached onto the drum 111 in a state in which the wire 105 is wound around the drum 111, and is wound and unwound in the normal and reverse rotations of the drum 111.

A cover 117 is attached to a base plate 115 and surrounds the wire 105 to prevent the wire 105 from jumping off the circumferential grooves 113 on the drum 111 when the wire 105 is wound and unwound in the normal and reverse rotations of the drum 111.

Accordingly, the wire 105 is attached onto the drum 111 in advance, and a flange 119 of the cover 117 is then fixed to the base plate 115 so that the cover 117 is assembled in a state in which the wire 105 is tensioned, thereby reducing the operability. Further, after the assembly of the cover 117, the cover 117 must be detached when the wire 105 is replaced by a new one so that the operation is very complicated. As shown by

the chain line in Fig. 1, the cover 117 must be disposed to be separated from the base plate 115 so that the cover 117 is attached to the base plate 115 in an assembly line, which is an after-attaching type, thereby increasing the number of control operations and reducing the operation efficiency.

What is desired is a wire terminal attaching structure enabling a wire to be mounted after assembly and reducing the number of control operations and improving the operation efficiency.

The present invention provides a wire terminal attaching structure comprising a rotary body surrounded by cover means, e.g. a base plate and a cover. The rotary body has an engaging portion engageable with a terminal portion on a flexible elongate element, e.g. a wire connected to an auxiliary device for guiding the movement of the wire. The engaging portion of the rotary body has a guide groove connected to a circumferential groove, and an insertion port communicated with the guide groove and preferably disposed along the axial direction of the driven rotary body. The guide groove and the insertion port are exposed by a cut-out portion of the cover means.

When the element or wire is attached to the engaging portion of the driven rotary body, the terminal portion of the element or wire is positioned with respect to the exposed insertion port and is thereafter inserted into the insertion port. At this time, the terminal portion of the element or wire is engaged with the engaging portion after the insertion into the insertion port, and simultaneously the element or _____

wire is adjacent to the bottom of the circumferential groove from the guide grooves. Accordingly, when the driven rotary body is rotated, the wire can become in an attaching state in which the wire is wound around the circumferential groove. In this attaching state of the wire, the terminal portion of the wire is not moved out of the insertion port since it contacts an edge of the guide groove. Further, when the wire is unwound, the wire does not jump off the circumferential groove since the wire is restricted by the cover. Further, the wire can be replaced by a new one by detaching the wire terminal portion from the insertion port.

The present invention will be more apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments thereof in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a conventional window regulator;

Fig. 2 is a view showing an entire window regulator to which the present invention is applied as an embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a side view showing a driven rotary body of a drum type;

Fig. 4 is a front view of the driven rotary body of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along Line V-V of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a rear view of the driven rotary body of Fig. 3;

Fig. 7 is a plan view showing a driven rotary body of a pulley type; and

Fig. 8 is a side view of the driven rotary body of Fig. 7.

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will next be described with reference to the drawings.

In Fig. 2, a guide member 1 of a wire type window regulator constitutes an auxiliary device operated by a wire and is attached to an unillustrated inner panel of a door through upper and lower brackets 1a. Support members 7 of a carrier plate 5 to which a window panel made of glass is attached are fitted to rail portions 3 of the guide member 1.

10 The support members 7 are made of synthetic resin and are projected from a plate body 9, and are fitted to and engaged with the rail portions 3 so that the carrier plate 5 can slide along the guide member 1 in the upper and lower directions. A wire engaging portion 11 is formed in the carrier plate 5 which is engaged with a stopper 17 of a wire 15 unwound from a driven rotary body 13 such as a wire drum.

The wire 15 extending from upper and lower ends of the stopper 17 is disposed along the longitudinal direction of the guide member 1, and extends through guide tubes 21 via wire guide portions 19 (one of which is a guide pulley) disposed at both ends of the guide member 1, and is then wound around the driven rotary body 13. An engaging recessed portion 23a of a terminal portion 23 of one of the respective guide tubes 21 is engaged with and disengaged from an attaching portion 27 extended from a base plate 25, and the other terminal portion 29 is fixed to an attaching portion 31 of the guide member 1.

20 The driven rotary body 13 is mounted on a drive shaft 33 manually rotatable in the normal and reverse directions, and is surrounded by a cover 37 having a flange portion 35 fixed to the base plate 25 by caulking, etc. The drive shaft 33 is rotatably supported by the cover 37 at one end thereof, and is rotatably supported by the base plate 25 at the other end thereof. An end portion of the drive shaft

33 is projected from the base plate 25 and is attached to a drive device 39 such as an operating handle. The drive device 39 is manually driven, but may be automatically driven by a drive motor, etc.

5 As shown in Fig. 3, a spiral circumferential groove 41 is formed on the circumferential surface of the driven rotary body 13, and an engaging portion 47 engaged with and disengaged from a terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 is disposed in a groove bottom 43 at each of both ends of the
10 circumferential groove 41. The terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 is cylindrically formed as shown in Fig. 2, and the wire terminal is integrally connected to the circumferential surface of the cylindrical terminal portion 45.

15 As shown in Figs. 3 to 6, a guide groove 51 and an insertion port 53 are disposed in the engaging portion 47 of the driven rotary body 13. The guide groove 51 is formed by cutting the cover 37 from a circumferential edge 49 to the groove bottom 43 of the circumferential groove 41. The
20 insertion port 53 is disposed along the axial W direction of the driven rotary body 13 and is communicated with the guide groove 51. The insertion port 53 and the guide groove 51 are formed to have sizes slightly greater than the diameter of the terminal portion 45 of the wire 15, and are
25 dislocated by an angle α as shown in Fig. 4. The guide groove 51 is set to have the same diameter as the one of the inserted port 53.

 The insertion port 53 and the guide groove 51 are disposed in alignment with a cut-out portion 55 of the
30 cover 37 to secure an exposed state thereof, and are exposed by the cut-out portion 55. The insertion port 53 and the guide groove 51 disposed on the side opposite to the side of the base plate 25 have a shape for enabling the insertion of the wire from a direction perpendicular to the
35 axial W direction, since the insertion is obstructed by the base plate 25.

In the wire terminal attaching structure constructed above, when the wire 15 is attached onto the engaging portion 47 of the driven rotary body 13, the wire 15 engaged with the wire engaging portion 11 of the carrier plate 5 is disposed along the guide member 1, and then extends through the guide tubes 21. Next, a terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 is inserted into the insertion port 53 of the engaging portion 47 of the driven rotary body 13 adjacent to the side of the base plate 25. Thus, the terminal portion 45 is engaged with the engaging portion 47, and the wire 15 is in an attaching state in which the wire 15 contacts the groove bottom 43 of the circumferential groove 41. Accordingly, after the wire 15 has been wound around the circumferential groove 41 to the uppermost or lowermost state of the carrier plate 5, the engaging recessed portion 23a of the terminal portion 23 of each of the guide tubes 21 is engaged with the attaching portion 27 of the base plate 25, thereby completing the half of the assembly.

Next, the other engaging portion 47 is disposed in alignment with the cut-out portion 55, and the terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 on the upper side is positioned with respect to the insertion port 53 and is inserted into the insertion port 53. Thus, the wire terminal portion 45 is engaged with the engaging portion 47, and the wire 15 is in an attaching state in which the wire contacts the groove bottom 43 of the circumferential groove 41. Next, the engaging recessed portion 23a of the terminal portion 23 of the guide tube 21 is engaged with the attaching portion 27 of the base plate 25, thereby completing the assembly. In the completion of the assembly, the terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 contacts an end edge of the guide groove 51 so that the wire terminal portion 45 does not jump off the groove 51 along the axial W direction. The wire 15 also does not jump off the circumferential groove 41, since the wire is restricted by the cover 37.

Accordingly, when the driven rotary body 13 is rotated in the normal or reverse direction, one end of the wire 15 is smoothly wound around the circumferential groove 41, and the other end of the wire 15 is smoothly unwound from the circumferential groove 41. As a result, the carrier plate 5 can be moved upwards and downwards.

When the wire 15 is replaced by a new one, the engaging portion 47 on the side of the cover 37 is aligned with the cut-out portion 55, and the terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 is detached from the insertion port 53. Next, after the wire 15 wound around the circumferential groove 41 has been completely unwound, the other terminal portion 45 of the wire 15 is detached from the other insertion port 53, and a procedure reverse to the above procedure is thereafter performed, thereby attaching the new wire 15.

Figs. 7 and 8 show a driven rotary body for operating an unillustrated auxiliary device. The driven rotary body is of a pulley type and comprises an engaging portion 47a formed on the side of a cut-out portion 55a of a cover 37a and composed of a guide groove 51a and an insertion port 53a. The driven rotary body 13a can be rotated only in the wound direction of the wire. The guide groove 51a is radially disposed from a circumferential edge of the driven rotary body 13a toward the axis thereof, and the width of the guide groove 51a is set to have a diameter slightly greater than the diameter of the wire 15a. The insertion port 53a is disposed at the inner end of the guide groove 51a along the axial direction of the driven rotary body 13a. The insertion port 53a is set to have a diameter slightly greater than that of a terminal portion 45a of the wire 15a.

When the wire 15a is assembled in the driven rotary body 13a in a state in which the cover 37a is fixed to a base plate 25a, the wire 15a is flexed and engaged with the guide groove 51a of the engaging portion 47a placed in the

cut-out portion 55a of the cover 37a, as shown by the solid line of Fig. 7. Further, the terminal portion 45a of the wire 15a is fitted into the insertion port 53a, and the wire 15a is wound around a circumferential groove 41a. In this state, the wire 15a contacts an end edge S' of the guide groove 51a so that the terminal portion 45a is not moved out of the inserted port 53a.

Accordingly, the auxiliary device can be operated by winding the wire 15a by the rotation of the driven rotary body 13a. After the assembly of the wire 15a, the wire 15a can be detached in a state in which the engaging portion 47a is aligned with the cut-out portion 55a, similar to the case of the driven rotary body 13 of the wire drum type mentioned above.

As mentioned above, in a wire terminal attaching structure of a driven rotary body in the present invention, a wire can be easily replaced by a new one since it is possible to attach the wire after the assembly. Further, the cover can be attached to a base plate in advance together with the driven rotary body, thereby improving the operability and reducing the number of control operations with respect to parts.

Claims:-

1. A winding device comprising:
a rotary body having a circumferential groove;
cover means for rotatably supporting and surrounding the rotary body; and
engaging means formed in the rotary body and engageable with a terminal portion of a flexible elongate element or wire, the engaging means having a guide groove connected to the circumferential groove, for receiving the flexible element or wire, and an insertion port communicating with the guide groove, for receiving the terminal portion of the flexible element or wire, the cover means having a cut-out portion for exposing the guide groove and the inserting port.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover means comprises a base plate rotatably supporting the rotary body and a cover for surrounding the rotary body and having the said cut-out portion.
3. A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, including the flexible elongate element or wire and an auxiliary member operated by movement of the flexible element or wire and connected thereto.
4. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the insertion port is disposed along the axial direction of the rotary body.
5. A device as claimed in any preceding claim, having two said engaging means, the cover means having two corresponding cut-out portions.
6. A winding device substantially as described with reference to, and as shown in, Figures 2 to 6 or Figures 7 and 8 of the accompanying drawings.

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